

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #) or, (previously re-presented).

Please AMEND claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 23-25, in accordance with the following:

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1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A character processing apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, comprising:

a receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

a code allocating section to allocate a code to the requested character information;

b1
a control section to control creation of character information, based on the requested character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment; and

a setting section ~~setting~~ to set created character information with respect to the allocated code, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

3. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The character processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a distributing section distributing the created character information to the input terminal equipments.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A character processing system, comprising:

~~at least one~~ a plurality of input terminal equipments; and

a character processing apparatus coupled to the ~~at least one~~ input terminal equipments
via a network,

each of said input terminal equipments comprising a requesting section requesting
character information, which relates to an external character, with respect to the character
processing apparatus,

with said character processing apparatus ~~further comprising:~~

-an allocating section allocating a code to the character information requested by
the requesting section;

a first notifying section notifying the code to the input terminal equipments;

a creating section creating character information based on the requested
character information; and

br a second notifying section notifying the created character information to the input
terminal equipments, so that the created character information is accessible from each
of the input terminal equipments.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5,
wherein said first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipments when the
code is allocated by said allocating section.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~The~~ character processing system as claimed in claim 5,
wherein said first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipments after said
creating section creates the created character information.

b3 9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second notifying section also notifies the code to the input terminal equipments.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes ~~at least one~~ a plurality of input terminal equipments, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising:

b4 receiving by the character processing apparatus, a request for character information which relates to an external character, from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the requested character information by the character processing apparatus;

controlling, by the character processing apparatus, creation of character information, based on the character information, in the creating terminal equipment; and

setting created character information with respect to the allocated code by the character processing apparatus, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes ~~at least one~~ a plurality of input terminal equipments, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising:

b5 requesting character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments with respect to the character processing apparatus;

allocating a code to the requested character information by the character processing apparatus;

notifying the code to the input terminal equipments by the character processing

apparatus;

creating character information, based on the requested character information, by the character information creating terminal equipment; and

b5
notifying the created character information to the arbitrary input terminal equipment by the character processing apparatus, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes ~~at least one~~ a plurality of input terminal equipments, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising:

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requesting character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments with respect to a character processing apparatus;

allocating a code to the requested character information by the character processing apparatus;

creating character information, based on the requested character information, by the character information creating terminal equipment; and

notifying the created character information to the arbitrary input terminal equipment by the character processing apparatus, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

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16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to ~~at least one~~ a plurality of input terminal equipments and a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, to carry out a plurality steps, comprising:

receiving a request for character information which relates to an external character from

one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the requested character information;

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controlling creation of character information, based on the requested character information, in the character information creating terminal equipment; and

setting created character information with respect to the allocated code, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to at least one a plurality of input terminal equipments via a network, to carry out a plurality of steps/operations, comprising:

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receiving character information which relates to an external character and is requested from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the requested character information;

notifying the code to the input terminal equipments;

creating character information based on the requested character information; and

notifying the created character information to the arbitrary input terminal equipment, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to at least one a plurality of input terminal equipments via a network, to carry out a plurality of steps, comprising:

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receiving character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the received character information;

b9 creating character information based on the received character information; and
notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipments.

22. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the character processing apparatus includes a character information creating terminal
equipment including said creating section.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The character processing apparatus as claimed in claim
1, further comprising:

an environment setting section setting an external character environment to be used in
the input terminal equipments.

bro 24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5,
wherein said character processing apparatus further comprises:

an environment setting section setting an external character environment to be used in
the input terminal equipments.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The character processing method as claimed in claim 10,
further comprising:

setting by the character processing apparatus an external character environment to be
used in the input terminal equipments.
